THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 40

"A Close Shave"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Duck the Great Western Engine puffed sadly to Edward's station.

"It's not fair," he complained. "Diesel has been telling lies about me and made the Fat Controller and all the engines think I'm horrid."

Edward smiled. "I know you aren't, and so does the Fat Controller, you wait and see."

"Why don't you help me with these trucks?"

Duck felt happier with Edward - and set to work at once.

The trucks were silly, heavy and noisy. The two engines had to work hard, pushing and pulling all afternoon.

At last they reached the top of the hill.

"Goodbye," whistled Duck, and rolled gently over the cros sing to the other line.

Duck loved coasting down the hill, running easily with the wind whistling past.

Suddenly

(SFX - Whistle)

It was a Guard's warning whistle.

"Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah!" laughed the trucks. "We've broken away. We've broken away!"

"Chase him, bump him, throw him off the rails," they yelled.

"Hurry, Duck, Hurry!" said the Driver.

They raced through Edward's station - but the trucks were catching up.

"As fast as we can, then they'll catch us gradually."

The Driver was gaining control.

"Another clear mile and we'll do it."

"Oh glory! Look at that!"

James was just pulling out on their line from the station ahead. Any minute there could be a crash.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"It's up to you now, Duck," cried the Driver.

Duck put every ounce of weight and steam against the trucks.

"It's too late!" Duck groaned. He veered into a siding where a barber had set up shop. He was shaving a customer.

CRASH

The silly trucks had knocked their Guard off his van and left him far behind after he had whistled a warning.

But the trucks didn't care - they were feeling very pleased with themselves.

"Beg pardon, Sir!" gasped Duck. "Excuse my intrusion."

"No I won't!" said the barber

"You've frightened my customers.

"I'll teach you." and he lathered Duck's face all over.

Poor Duck

Thomas was helping to pull the trucks away when the Fat Controller arrived.

"I do not like engines popping through my walls," fumed the barber.

"I appreciate your feelings," said the Fat Controller "but you must know that this engine and his crew have prevented a serious accident."

.....

"It was a very close shave!"

"Oh!" said the Barber. "Oh, excuse me."

He filled a basin of water to wash Duck's face.

"I'm sorry, I didn't know you were being a brave engine."

"That's all right Sir, I didn't know that either."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"You were very brave indeed," said the Fat Controller. "I'm proud of you."

The Fat Controller watched the rescue operation - then he had more news for Duck. "And when you are properly washed and mended, you are coming home."

"Home Sir? Do you mean the Yard?" asked Duck.

"Of course."

"But, Sir, they don't like me. They like Diesel."

"Not now. I never believed Diesel, so I sent him packing. The engines are sorry and want you back."

A few days later when he came home, there was a really rousing welcome for Duck the Great Western Engine.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 41

"Better Late than Never"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

The engines were finding life difficult.

Workmen were mending the viaduct on the main line. The arches needed strengthening. The Fat Controller did not want to close the Railway while the work was done, and so repairs took a long time.

The engines had to take great care when crossing the viaduct and the delay often made them late on their journey to the junction where they knew Thomas would be ready to collect his passengers.

Thomas grew crosser and crosser.

"Time's time!" he grumbled. "Why should I keep my passengers waiting while Henry and James dawdle about all day on viaducts."

"Don't blame me." snorted Henry. "If we hurried across the viaduct it might collapse, and then you 'd have no passengers at all. What would you do then?"

"Run my train on time for one thing," retorted Thomas. He hurried away before Henry could answer.

Bertie was impatient too.

He was timed to arrive just after Thomas.

His passengers found that instead of going straight from the bus to their train, they were kept waiting till Thomas arrived.

Soon Bertie grew cross with Thomas.

"Late again!" he remarked as Thomas panted wearily in.

"We may be friends, but I thought you could go fast Thomas. It's time we had another race - I reckon I could beat you now!"

Thomas let off steam loudly.

"Rubbish!" he hissed fiercely."It's those main line engines. They dither about on their viaduct and then blame the Fat Controller's workmen. It's just an excuse for laziness if you ask me."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

One day, James was later than ever at the junction.

"I'm sorry, Thomas," he puffed. "I was held up at the station and the viaduct made it worse."

"It's lucky for you I'm a guaranteed connection," grumbled Thomas.

Before James could answer, he puffed importantly away.

"Come along, come along," he panted to the coaches.

Annie and Clarabel did their best, but Thomas soon found that he couldn't save much time.

Suddenly Thomas saw Bertie ahead. His radiator was steaming.

"What's the matter?" asked Thomas. "You should be at the station by now - you're late."

"I feel dreadful," moaned Bertie. "All upset inside and Driver says he can't make me better. Thank goodness you're late too. Can you take my passengers please - they'll never get home otherwise?"

"Of course," agreed Thomas.

He now felt sorry for Bertie and promised to get help at the next station.

Thomas set off again. Already he felt much more cheerful and Bertie's passengers - travelling in Annie and Clarabel - all reached home safely.

When Bertie was better he came to thank Thomas.

"I'm sorry I teased you about being late," he said.

"That's all right," said Thomas. "I'm glad I could help. There are times when being late isn't such a bad thing after all."

With a last cheerful greeting, the two friends went back to work.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 42

"Break Van"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Donald and Douglas are twins and had arrived from Scotland to help the Fat Controller - but only one engine had been expected.

The twins meant well - but did cause confusion.

The Fat Controller had given them numbers - Donald 9 and Douglas 10 - but he was still plannin to send one engine home.

There was a Brakevan in the yard that had taken a dislike to Douglas. Things always went wrong when he had to take it out. His trains were late, and he was blamed. Douglas began to worry.

Donald his twin was angry. They were brothers and brothers stick up for each other

"Ye're a muckle nuisance," said Donald. "It's tae leave ye behind I'd be wantin'."

"You can't," said the van, "I'm essential."

"Och are you," Donald burst out. "Ye're naethin' but a screechin' an' a noise when all said an' done. Spite Douggie wad ye? Tak that."

"Oh! Oh! Oh!" cried the van.

"There's mair comin' should ye misbehave."

the van decides to wait before he misbehaves again

The van behaved better after that.

Then

Until one day Donald had an accident. The rails were slippery. He couldn't stop in time.

The Fat Controller was most annoyed. He didn't know it was an accident & he blamed Donald

"I am disappointed, Donald. I did not expect such - um - clumsiness from you. I had decided to send Douglas back and keep you."

"I'm sorry Sirr," said Donald.

Now we'll have to make other arrangements

"I should think so too. You have upset my arrangements. Now James will have to help with the goods work, while you have your tender mended. James won't like that."

The Fat Controller was right. James grumbled dreadfully.

Cut

"Ony wan wad think," said Douglas, "that Donal' had his accident on purrpose.

I heard tell, aboot an engine an' some tar wagons."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Shut up!" said James. "It's not funny." He didn't like to be reminded of his own accident.

"Weel, weel, weel!" said Douglas.

"Shairly Jeames it wasna you? - Ye dinna say!"

James didn't say. He slouched sulkily away.

"He's cross," sniggered the spiteful Brakevan. "We'll try to make him crosser still!"

"Hold back!" giggled the trucks to each other.

James did his best, but he was exhausted when they reached Edward's station. Luckily Douglas was there.

"Help me up the hill please," panted James. "These trucks are playing tricks."

"We'll show them," said Douglas.

Slowly but surely the snorting engines forced the trucks up the hill.

But James was losing steam. "I can't do it. I can't do it!"

"LAE IT TAE ME!" shouted Douglas.

The Guard was anxious. "Go steady! The van's breaking."

The van was in pieces.

No-one had been hurt and soon Edward came to clear the mess.

The Fat Controller was on board.

"I might have known it would be Douglas!" he said.

"Douglas was grand Sir," said Edward. "James had no steam left, but Douglas worked hard enough for three. I heard him from my yard."

"Two would have been enough," said the Fat Controller. "I want to be fair, Douglas, but .... I don't know, I really don't know."

The Fat Controller was making up his mind about something - but that's another story.

I wonder which one he'll chose
Don't you?

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 43

"The Deputation"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Snow came early to the Island of Sodor. It was heavier than usual. Most engines hate snow - Donald and Douglas were used to it. Coupled back to back with a van between their tenders and a snowplough on their fronts, they set to work.

They puffed backwards and forwards patrolling the line. Generally the snow slipped away easily, but sometimes they found deeper drifts.

Presently they came to a drift which was larger than most. They charged it, and were just backing for another try, when (SFX - Whistle)

"Losh sakes, Donal', it's Henry! - Dinna fash yerself, Henry. Wait a while. We'll hae ye oot!"

Henry was very grateful. He saw all was not well. The twins were glum.

They told him that the Fat Controller was returning soon.

"He'll send us back for shair."

"It's a shame!" said Percy.

"A lot of nonsense about a broken signalbox," grumbled Gordon.

"That spiteful Brakevan too," put in James. "Good riddance. That's what I say."

"They were splendid in the snow," added Henry. "It isn't fair." They all agreed that Something Must be Done, but none knew what.

Percy decided to talk to Edward about it.

"What you need, said Edward, "is a Deputation." He explained what that was.

Percy ran back quickly.

"Edward says we need a Depotstation."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Of course," said Gordon, "the question is ..."

"... what is a desperation?" asked Henry.

"It's when engines tell the Fat Controller something's wrong," said Percy.

"Did you say tell the Fat Controller?" asked Duck thoughtfully. There was a long silence.

"I propose," said Gordon, "that Percy be our - er - hum - disputation."

"HI!" squeaked Percy. "I can't."

"Rubbish Percy," said Henry. "It's easy."

"That's settled then," said Gordon.

Poor Percy wished it wasn't.

"Hullo Percy! It's nice to be back."

Percy jumped.

"Er y-y-yes Sir, please Sir."

"You look nervous Percy. What's the matter?"

"Please Sir, they've made me a Desperation Sir. To Speak to You Sir. I don't like it Sir."

The Fat Controller pondered. "Do you mean a Deputation, Percy?"

"Yes Sir, please Sir. It's Donald and Douglas Sir. They say, Sir, that if you send them away Sir they'll be turned into scrap, Sir. That would be dreadful, Sir. Please, Sir, don't send them away."

"Thank you Percy. That will do."

Later, the Fat Controller spoke to the engines.

"I had a - er - deputation. I understand your feelings but I do not approve of interferenc

He paused impressively. "Donald and Douglas, I hear that your work in the snow was good. You shall have a new coat of paint.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

The twins were surprised. "Thank ye Sirr."

"But your names will be painted on you. We'll have no more 'mistakes'."

"Thankye Sirr. Dis this mean that the baith o'uz ...?"

The Fat Controller smiled. "It means...."

But the rest of his speech was drowned in a delighted chorus of cheers and whistles. The twins were here to say.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 44

"Thomas Comes to Breakfast"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Thomas the Tank Engine has worked his Branch Line for many years, and knows it very well.

"You know just where to stop, Thomas," laughed his Driver. "You could almost manage it without me!"

Thomas had become conceited. He didn't realise his Driver was joking.

Later he boasted to the others.

"Driver says I don't need him now."

"Don't be so daft," snorted Percy.

"I'd never go without my Driver," said Toby earnestly. "I'd be frightened."

"Pooh!" boasted Thomas. "I'm not scared."

"You'd never dare."

"I would then. You'll see!"

The next morning the Firelighter came. Thomas drowsed comfortably as the warmth spread through his boiler. Percy and Toby were still asleep. Thomas suddenly remembered.

"Silly stick in the muds," he chuckled.

"I'll show them. Driver said I could manage without him. I'll just go out, then I'll stop and wheeeesh. That'll make them jump."

Thomas though he was being clever; really he was only moving because a careless cleaner had meddled with his controls. He soon found his mistake.

He tried to wheeeesh but he couldn't. He tried to stop but he couldn't.

He just kep rolling along.

He didn't dare look at what was coming next. There was the Stationmaster's house.

The Stationmaster was about to have breakfast.

"Horrors!" cried Thomas and shut his eyes.

The house rocked - broken glass tinkled - plaster was everywhere.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Thomas had collected a bush on his travels. He peered into the room through its leaves. He couldn't speak.

The Stationmaster was furious.

His wife picked up her plate. "You miserable engine," she scolded. "Just look what you've done to our breakfast! Now I shall have to cook some more."

She banged the door. More plaster fell. This time, it fell on Thomas.

Thomas felt depressed.

Workmen propped up the house with strong poles and laid rails through the garden.

Meanwhile Donald and Douglas arrived.

"Dinna fash yerself Thomas. We'll soon hae ye back on the rails," they laughed.

Donald and Douglas, puffing hard, managed to haul Thomas back to safety.

Bits of fencing, the bush and a broken window frame festooned his front which was badly twisted.

The twins laughed and left him.

Thomas was in disgrace.

There was worse to come.

"You are a very naughty engine." — explain why

"I know, Sir. I'm sorry, Sir," Thomas' voice was muffled behind his bush.

"You must go to the Works, and have your front mended. It will be a long job."

"Yes Sir."

"Meanwhile, a Diesel Rail-car wil do your work."

"A D-D-Diesel, Sir?" Thomas spluttered.

"Yes, Thomas, Diesels always stay in their sheds till they are wanted. } rattles the steamy obedience why not stress makes

Diesels never gallivant off to breakfast in Station-master's houses."

unnoticed

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 45

"Daisy"

© BRITT ALLCROFT LIMITED 1986

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Percy and Toby were worried. Thomas' recent accident had caused a great deal of trouble, and the Fat Controller was waiting for them with important news.

"Here," he said, "is Daisy - the Diesel Rail-car who has come to help while Thomas is - er - indisposed."

"Please, Sir," asked Percy, "will she go, Sir, when Thomas comes back, Sir?"

"That depends," said the Fat Controller. "Meanwhile, however long she says - I hope you will both make her welcome and comfortable."

"Yes, Sir, we'll try, Sir," said the engines.

"Good. Run along now, and show her the shed.

She will want to rest after her journey."

Daisy was hard to please. She shuddered at the Engine Shed.

"This is dreadfully smelly - I'm highly sprung, and anything smelly is bad for my swerves."

Next they tried the Carriage Shed.

"This is better," said Daisy, "but whatever is that rubbish?"

The 'rubbish' turned out to be Annie, Clarabel and Henrietta, who were most offended.

"We won't stay here to be insulted," they fumed.

Percy and Toby had to take them away and spend half the night soothing their hurt feelings.

The engines woke next morning feeling exhausted.

Daisy, on the other hand, felt bright and cheerful. "Uu-ooo! Uu-ooo!" she tooted as she came out of the Yard, and backed to the Station.

"Look at me!" she purred to the Passengers. "I'm the latest Diesel, highly sprung and right up to date."

"You won't want Thomas' bumpy old Annie and Clarabel now."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

The passengers waited for Daisy to start, but she didn't.

She saw that a milk van was about to be coupled to her, and was most indignant.

"Do they expect 'me' to pull that?"

"Surely," said her Driver, "you can pull one van."

"I won't!" said Daisy. "Percy can do it. He loves messing about with trucks."

She began to shudder violently.

"Nonsense," said her Driver. "Come on now, back down."

Daisy lurched backwards. She was so cross that she blew a fuse.

"Told you," she said, and stopped.

Everyone argued with her, but it was no use.

"It's Fitter's orders," she said.

"What is?"

"My Fitter's a very nice man. He comes every week, and examines me carefully. 'Daisy,' he says, 'never, never pull. You're highly sprung, and pulling is bad for your swerves'."

"So that's how it is," finished Daisy.

"Stuff and nonsense!" said the Stationmaster.

"I can't understand," said the Shunter, "whatever made the Fat Controller send us such a feeble ..."

"Feeble! Feeble!" spluttered Daisy. "Let me..."

"Stop arguing," grumbled the passengers. "We're late already."

So they uncoupled the Van, and Daisy purred away feeling very pleased with herself.

She could now enjoy her journey.

"That's a good story," she chuckled. "I'll do just what work I choose and no more."

But she said it to herself.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 46

"Percy's Predicament"

© BRITT ALLCROFT LIMITED 1986

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Daisy the Diesel Rail-car's work in the countryside was full of surprises.

She was frightened of bulls and cows, and she remained very lazy and stubborn.

One day Toby brought Henrietta to the Station where Percy was grumpily shunting.

"Hullo, Percy, I see Daisy's left the milk again."

"I'll have to make a special journey with it, I suppose."

"Anyone would think I'd nothing to do," grumbled Percy.

"Tell you what," replied Toby, "I'll take the milk, you fetch my trucks."

Their Drivers and the Stationmaster agreed.

Percy had never been to the quarry before.

He began ordering the trucks about. "Hurry along," he said.

The trucks grumbled to each other.

"This is Toby's place, Percy's got no right to poke his funnel up here and push us around."

They whispered and passed the word.

"Pay Percy out! Pay Percy out!"

"Come along," puffed Percy. "No nonsense."

"We'll give him nonsense!" giggled the trucks, but they followed so quietly that Percy thought they were under control.

Suddenly they saw a notice ahead.

"ALL TRAINS STOP TO PIN DOWN BRAKES."

"Peep! Peep! Peep!" "Brakes, Guard, please!" But before he could check them the trucks surged forward.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"On! On!" they cried.

"Help! Help!" whistled Percy.

The man on duty at the crossing rushed to warn traffic with his red flag, but was too late to switch Percy to the "runaway" siding.

Frantically trying to grip the rails, Percy slid into the Yard. "Peeep peeeeeeep! Look out!"

The Brakevan was in smithereens. Percy's Driver and Fireman had jumped clear, but Percy was stranded.

Next day the Fat Controller arrived. Toby and Daisy had helped to clear the wreckage, but Percy remained on his perch of trucks.

"We must now try," said the Fat Controller, "to run the Branch line with Toby and a Diesel. You have put us in an Awkward Predicament."

"I am sorry, Sir," replied Percy.

"You can stay there, till we are ready. Perhaps it will teach you to be careful with trucks."

Percy sighed. The trucks groaned beneath his wheels. He quite understood about awkward predicaments.

The Fat Controller spoke severely to Daisy, too. "My engines work hard. I send lazy engines away."

Daisy was ashamed.

However, Toby says you worked hard after Percy's accident, so you shall have another chance."

"Thank you, Sir," said Daisy. "I will work hard, Sir. Toby says he'll help me."

"Excellent! What Toby doesn't know about Branch line problems isn't worth knowing. Our Toby's an Experienced Engine."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Next day Thomas came back, and Percy was sent to be mended.

Annie and Clarabel were delighted to see Thomas again - and he took them for a run at once.

All are now friends, and Toby has taught Daisy a great deal. She 'shooed' a cow off the line all by herself the other day.

That shows you, doesn't it!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 47

"The Diseasel"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Bill and Ben are tank engine twins.

Each has 4 wheels - a tiny chimney and dome - and a small squat cab.

Their trucks are filled with china clay. It is needed for pottery, paper, paint and many other things.

The twins are now kept busy pulling the trucks for engines on the main line - and for ships in the harbour.

One morning, they arranged some trucks and went away for more.

They returned to find them all gone.

The twins were most surprised.

Their drivers examined a patch of oil.

"That's a diesel," they said.

"It's a what'll?" asked Bill.

" A diseasel I think," replied Ben. "There's a notice about them in our Shed.

"Coughs and sneezles spread diseasels."

"You had a cough in your smoke box yesterday. It's your fault the diseasel came."

"It isn't."

"It is."

"Stop arguing you two," laughed their Drivers.

"Let's go and rescue our trucks."

Bill and Ben were horrified.

"But the diseasel will magic us away like the trucks!"

"He won't magic us," replied their Drivers, "we'll more likely magic him.

Listen - he doesn't know you're twins - so we'll take away your names and numbers and then this is what we'll do."

Puffing hard, the twins set off on their journey to find the diesel.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

They were looking forward to playing tricks on him.

Creeping into the yard, they found the diesel on a siding with the missing trucks.

Ben hid behind, but Bill went boldly alongside.

The diesel looked up. "Do you mind?"

"Yes," said Bill. "I do. I want my trucks please."

"These are mine," said the diesel. "Go away."

Bill pretended to be frightened.

"You're a big bully," he whimpered. "You'll be sorry."

He ran back and hid behind the trucks on the other side.

Ben now came forward.

"Truck stealer!" hissed Ben.

He ran away too.

Bill took his place.

This went on and on till the diesel's eyes nearly popped out.

"Stop! you're making me giddy."

The two engines gazed at him.

"Are there two of you?"

"Yes, we're twins."

"I might have known it."

Just then Edward bustled up.

"Bill and Ben, why are you playing here?"

"We're not playing," protested Bill.

"We're rescuing our trucks," squeaked Ben. "Even you don't take our trucks without asking, butthis diseasel did."

"There's no cause to be rude," said Edward severely.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"This engine is a Metropolitan Vickers Diesel-Electric, Type 2."

The twins were abashed. "We're sorry Mr - er..."

"Never mind," the Diesel smiled. "Call me Boco. I'm sorry I didn't understand about the trucks."

"That's alright then," said Edward. "Now off you go Bill and Ben. Fetch Boco's trucks - then you can take this lot."

There's no real harm in them," he said to Boco, "but they're maddening at times."

Boco chuckled - "Maddening," he said "is the word."

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 48

"Wrong Road"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Thomas' Branch Line is important, and so is Edward's.

But their track and bridges are not so strong as those on the main line. The Fat Controller does not allow the heavier main line engines like Gordon to run on them.

But one day, the way Gordon was talking, you would have thought the Fat Controller had given this order for quite another reason.

"It's not fair," grumbled Gordon.

"What isn't fair?" asked Edward.

"Letting Branch line diesels pull main line trains."

"Never mind, Gordon, I'm sure Boco will let you pull his trucks sometimes."

Gordon spluttered, "I won't pull Boco's dirty trucks. I won't run on Branch Lines."

"Why not? It would be a nice change."

"The Fat Controller would never approve," huffed Gordon. "Branch lines are vulgar."

Gordon puffed away.

Edward chuckled and followed him to the station.

Every evening the two engines pull two fast trains from the station. Gordon always leaves first with an express for the Main line. Edward follows 5 minutes later with his train for the Branch line.

Usually everything runs like clockwork. But tonight there was trouble.

A lady in a green floppy hat - was saying goodbye to a friend.

It was nearly time for Gordon to start.

The Fireman looked back towards the Guard's van - and saw something green waving.

"Right away mate!"

He thought the Guard had waved his flag.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Gordon started, leaving luggage, his passengers and the Guard all standing on the platform. Everyone was very surprised and cross.

To make matters worse, by the time Gordon had been stopped and brought back - Edward was already late with his train - so now he set off first.

But the signalman at the junction wasn't told about the change.

By mistake, he sent Edward along the Main line.

Gordon was sent along the Branch and arrived cold and cross on one of the sidings near the Harbour.

Next morning Bill and Ben peeped into the Yard. There were no trucks for them, but they didn't mind that.

Teasing Gordon would be much better fun!

"What's that?" asked Bill.

"Ssh!" whispered Ben. "It's Gordon."

"It looks like Gordon, but it can't be. Gordon never comes on the Branch lines. He thinks them vulgar.

Gordon pretended he hadn't heard them.

"If it isn't Gordon," said Ben, "It's just a pile of old iron..."

"... which we'd better take to the scrapyard."

"No, Bill, this lot's useless for scrap. We'll take it to the Harbour and dump it in the sea."

Gordon was alarmed. "I am Gordon. Stop! Stop!"

When Boco suddenly arrived, Gordon thought him the most beautiful sight he had ever seen.

"Boco my dear engine! Save me!"

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Boco quickly sized up the situation and threatened to take away the trucks he had brought for Bill and Ben.
and told the twins that the joke had gone far enough
This made the twins behave at once.

Gordon thought he was wonderful.

"Those little demons. How do you do it?"

"Ah well," said Boco, "it's just a knack."

Gordon still believes that Boco saved his life; but we know the twins were only teasing - don't we?

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 49

"Edward's Exploit"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Bertie the Bus was giving some visitors a tour of the Island of Sodor.

It was their last afternoon, and Edward was preparing to take them to meet Bill and Ben.

He found it hard to start the heavy train.

"Did you see him straining?" asked Henry.

"Positively painful," remarked James.

"Just pathetic," grunted Gordon. "He should give up and be preserved before it's too late."

"Shut up!" burst out Duck. "You're all jealous. Edward's better than any of you."

"You're right, Duck," said Boco.

"Edward's old, bur he'll surprise us all."

"I've done it, we're off! I've done it, we're off!" said Edward as he finally puffed out of the station.

Bill and Ben were delighted to see the visitors. They loved being photographed.

Later they took the party to the China Clay Works in a "Brakevan Special."

Everyone had a splendid time and the visitors were most impressed.

Then Edward took the visitors home.

On the way, the weather changed. Wind and rain buffeted Edward. His sanding gear failed, and his Fireman rode in front dropping sand on the rails by hand.

Suddenly Edward's wheels slipped fiercely - with a shrieking crack, something broke.

The crew inspected the damage. Repairs took some time.

"One of your crank-pins broke, Edward," said his Driver. "We've taken your side-rods off. Now you're like an old fashioned engine. Can you get these people home? They must start back tonight."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"I'll try, Sir," promised Edward.

Edward puffed and pulled his hardest, but his wheels kept slipping and he could not start the heavy train.

The passengers were anxious.

Driver, Fireman and Guard went along the train making adjustments between the coaches.

"We've loosened the couplings, Edward. Now you can pick your coaches up one by one, just as you do with trucks."

"That will be much easier," said Edward.

"Come...on!" he puffed - and moved cautiously forward.

The first coach moving, helped to start the second, and the second helped the third.

"I've done it! I've done it!" puffed Edward.

"Steady, Boy!" warned his Driver. Well done, Boy!"

"You've got them! You've got them!"

And he listened happily to Edward's steady beat as he forged slowly but surely ahead.

At last, battered, weary but unbeaten, Edward steamed in.

Henry was waiting for the visitors with the special train.

"Peep! Peep!"

The Fat Controller angrily pointed to the clock, but excited passengers cheered and thanked Edward, his Driver and Fireman.

Duck and Boco saw to it that Edward was left in peace - Gordon and James remained respectfully silent.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 50

"Ghost Train"

© BRITT ALLCROFT LIMITED 1986

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"... and every year on the date of the accident it runs again as a warning to others, plunging into the gap, shrieking like a lost soul."

"Percy, what are you talking about?"

"The Ghost Train. Driver saw it last night."

"Where?" asked Thomas and Toby.

"He didn't say. 'Oooh!' it makes my wheels wobble to think of it!"

"Pooh!" said Thomas. "You're just a silly little engine, I'm not scared."

"Thomas didn't believe in your ghost," said Percy, next morning.

His Driver laughed. "Neither do I. It was a ~~'pretend' ghost on television.~~ made up story."

Percy was disappointed.

That evening he came back from the harbour.

Percy knew where he was, even in the dark. "Crowe's Farm Crossing. We shan't be long now."

He liked running at night - the rails hummed and the signal lights shone green.

But a broken cart load of lime lay ahead.

Sam the farmer has just gone for help.

Percy broke the cart to smithereens - lime flew everywhere.

He puffed quickly to the nearest signalbox.

Percy's Driver explained what had happened.

"I'll see to it," said the signalman, "but you'd better clean Percy, or people will think he's a ghost!"

Percy chuckled. "Do let's pretend I'm a ghost, and scare Thomas. That'll teach him to say I'm a silly little engine!"

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Toby promised to help.

Thomas was being 'oiled up' for his evening train.

"Percy's had an accident," cried Toby.

"Poor engine!" said Thomas. "Botheration! That means I'll be late."

"They've cleared the line for you, but there's something worse - ".

"Out with it Toby, I can't wait all evening."

" - I've just seen something," said Toby.. "It looked like Percy's ghost. Its-said it w-wasc-cominghere - to - tow-warn us."

"Pooh! Who cares? Don't be frightened, Toby. I'll take care of you."

"Peeeeeeeep! Peeeeeeeep! pip! pip! pip! PeeeeeeeeeeeeeeP!"

"Let me in! Let me in!" wailed Percy.

"No, no. Not by the smoke of my chimney chim chim!"

"I'll chuff and I'll puff and I'll break your door in!"

"Oh dear!" exclaimed Thomas. "It's getting late ... I'd no idea ... I must find Annie and Clarabel ..."

It was morning when Thomas returned.

"Where have you been?" asked Toby.

"Ah, well," said Thomas. "I knew you'd be sad about Percy, and I - er - didn't like to intrude. I slept in the Goods Shed and -

"Oh! sorry ... can't stop ... got to see a coach about a train."

Percy was none the worse for his adventure and was still enjoying himself enormously.

He had heard everything.

"Well! Well! Well! What d'you know about that?"

Anyone would think," chuckled Toby, "That our Thomas had just seen a ghost."

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 51

"Woolly Bear"

© BRITT ALLCROFT LIMITED 1986

NOTES

NARRATIVE

In the summer the gangers cut the long grass on the line-side - raking it into heaps to dry in the sun.

At this time of year, Percy stops where they have been cutting.

The men load up his empty wagons, and he pulls them to the station.

Toby then takes them to the hills for the farmers to feed their stock.

"WHeeeeeeesh!" Percy gave a ghostly whistle. "Don't be frightened, Thomas," he laughed, "it's only me!"

"Your ugly fizz is enough to frighten anyone," said Thomas. "You're like - "

"Ugly indeed! I'm -"

" - green caterpillar with red stripes," continued Thomas firmly. "You crawl like one too."

"I don't!"

"Who's been late every afternoon this week?"

"It's the hay."

"I can't help that," said Thomas. "Time's time, and the Fat Controller relies on me to keep it. I can't if you crawl in the hay till all hours."

"Green caterpillar indeed!" fumed Percy as he set off to collect some hay to take to the Harbour.

"Everyone says I'm handsome - or at least nearly everyone. Anyway, my curves are better than Thomas' corners."

"Thomas says I'm always late," he grumbled. "I'm never late - or at least only a few minutes. What's that to Thomas? He can always catch up time further on."

All the same, he and his Driver decided to start home early. Then came trouble.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

CRASH

A crate of treacle was upset all over Percy.

Percy was cross.

He was still sticky when he puffed away.

The wind was blowing fiercely.

"Look at that!" exclaimed the Driver.

The wind caught the piled hay, tossing it up and over the track.

The line climbed here. "Take a run at it Percy," his Driver advised.

Percy gathered speed. But the hay made the rails slippery, and his wheels wouldn't grip. Time after time he stalled with spinning wheels and had to wait till the line ahead was cleared before he would start again.

Everyone was waiting. Thomas seethed impatiently.

"Ten minutes late! I warned him. Passengers'll complain, and the Fat Controller ..."

Then they all saw Percy - they laughed and shouted.

"Sorry - I'm late!" Percy panted.

"Look what's crawled out of the hay!" teased Thomas.

"What's wrong?" asked Percy.

"Talk about hairy caterpillars!" puffed Thomas. "It's worth being late to have seen you."

Percy laughs at himself

When Percy got him his Driver showed him what he looked like in a mirror.

"Bust my buffers! No wonder they all laughed. I'm just like a woolly bear! Please clean me before ~~Toby comes.~~" I'm afraid of what people will say

But it was no good. Thomas told Toby all about it.

They all laughed a lot Percy ~~thought~~ about it even he and after a while ~~Percy laughed too~~ had a good laugh too

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Instead of talking about sensible things like playing ghosts, Thomas and Toby made jokes about "woolly bear" caterpillars and other creatures which crawl about in hay.

They laughed a lot, but Percy thought they were really being very silly indeed.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 52

"Thomas and the Missing Christmas Tree"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

It was two days before Christmas.

Many children were expected on the Island of Sodor.

All the engines were busy with the final preparations.

The Fat Controller wanted this year's Carol Party to be an extra special celebration.

The Fat Controller was now waiting impatiently for Thomas.

"Quickly now," he said. "Our Christmas Tree has just arrived just in time. I want you to fetch it Thomas. Duck can look after Annie and Clarabel until you get back."

"Will we be able to sing Carols too?" asked Thomas.

"We'll see," promised the Fat Controller.

"It would be nice to sing Carols again," sighed Thomas as he set off on his important mission.

Thomas collected the tree safely but large snow drifts lay ahead.

"I mustn't be late," he thought. "The Fat Controller is relying on me."

Whistling bravely, Thomas tried to move, but he couldn't!

There was worse to come.

Poor Thomas was snowed under.

Meanwhile, the other engines waited and waited.

They were grumbling about Thomas for being late.

"Silence!" said the Fat Controller. "Thomas left the works safely, but snow has brought the telephone lines down. We must assume he is stranded."

The engines now felt sorry for Thomas, and cold but confident the twins set off to the rescue.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Suddenly - they came to a drift that was deeper than the rest.

"Help".

"Hush," said Donald - "I can hear something."

"Probably the wind," said Douglas.

"Help"

"No, listen," insisted Donald.

"Over here."

"Och - it's Thomas."

"Come on, the poor wee engine must be frozen to the frames in there."

When the workmen arrived it took some time to decide how to dig away the heavy drifts of snow. Thomas' Driver and Fireman who had taken shelter at a nearby cottage joined the rescue.

At last, Thomas and the precious Christmas Tree were freed from the snow drift.

Then they set off once more to finish their long journey.

The Fat Controller greeted them warmly.

"As a reward for all your hard work, you may go and enjoy the Carols."

"Be quick now."

At the Big Station all was soon ready.

"1, 2, 3."

Suddenly, like magic - the station was flooded with lights.

"Ladies, gentlemen and children, I give you three cheers for - Thomas the Tank Engine and all his friends - who have made this occasion possible."

Suddenly there was a strange whirring sound.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Percy and Toby smiled, they knew who it was.

With landing lights shining brightly, Harold the Helicopter touched down gently in the snow - bringing the greated surprise of all - Father Christmas.